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Burundi President Flies to Pyongyang

His Excellency Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, Chairman of the Supreme Revolutionary Council and President of the Republic of Burundi visited Pyongyan from Mar. 20 to 23 for an official goodwill visit to the DPRK at the invitation of President Kim Il Sung, KCNA reported.

President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and his wife were accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Edouard Nzambimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Major Eugene Sinzinkayo, Member of the Supreme Revolutionary Council; Major Laurent Ndabaneze, Member of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, and his wife; Commandant Cyprien Niyungeko, Member of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, and his wife; Donatien Bihute, Minister of Planning; Tharcisse Ruhwikira, Secretary General of the Presidency; Vincent Ndikumasabo, Member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Party; Simon Sabimbona, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Burundi to the DPRK, and his wife and others.

While staying in Pyongyang, the summit talks were held on Mar. 20 and 22.

During their stay in the DPRK, various kinds of functions were arranged to welcome them and they visited Mangyongdae, birth place of President Kim Il Sung and others.

An accord on economic and technological cooperation between the Government of the DPRK and the Government of the Republic of Burundi was signed.

A general agreement on economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation between the DPRK and the Republic of Burundi was als signed.

President Kim Il Sung firmly shook hands with President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza on Mar. 20 at the airport, Pyongyang, when he alighted from the plane. (KCNA Radiophoto)

Summit Talks

President Bagaza and his party arrived in Pyongyang on Mar. 20.

President Kim Il Sung firmly shook hands with President Bagaza when he alighted from the plane.

Juvenile corps members courteously presented bouquets of fragrant flowers to President Kim Il Sung and President Bagaza.

They were met at the airport by Pak Sung Chul and his wife, Li Jong Ok, Kim Man Gum, Ho Dam, Kong Jin Tae and chairmen of commissions and ministers of the administration council, leading functionaries of the working people's organizations, generals of the Korean People's Army, leading personages in the fields of science, education, culture, art, public health, and the press and Kim Dal Guk, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the Republic of Burundi.

Diplomatic envoys of various countries in Pyongyang were present there.

A grand function was held at the airport in welcome of President Bagaza.

A silver knife was presented to President Bagaza, on the same day at the Ryonghung Crossroads in front of the February 8 House of Culture.

Kang Jung Han, Chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative Committee, presented a silver knife to President Bagaza in the name of the Pyongyang citizens.

President Bagaza expressed deep thanks for the silver knife.

President Bagaza and his wife on the same day paid a courtesy call on President Kim Il Sung and his wife.

President Kim Il Sung had a conversation with President Bagaza in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Talks were held on the same day between President Kim Il Sung and President Bagaza.

At the talks the two sides exchanged views on further expanding and developing the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and a series of matters of common concern and reached an identity of views on matters discussed.

The talks proceeded in a sincere and friendly atmosphere.

The talks were also held on Mar. 22.

President Kim Il Sung, on the same day received gifts of best wishes from President Bagaza at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall.

President Kim Il Sung saw the gifts on display and expressed thanks for them.

Banquet

President Kim Il Sung arranged a grand banquet on the Mar. 20 evening at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in honour of the Burundi guests.

President Kim Il Sung made a speech at the banquet. (See page 2)

President Bagaza spoke next. (See page 2)

The banquet was alive with friendly sentiments.

President Kim Il Sung on Mar. 22 presented gifts to President Bagaza and madame.

DPRK Order Awarded

An order of the DPRK was awarded to President Bagaza.

An awardin ceremony was held on the same day at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall.

President Bagaza and his wife and their entourage and Simon Sabimbona, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Burundi to the DPRK were present.

President Kim Il Sung awarded the Order of National Flag First Class respectively to President Bagaza and his wife.

Orders and medals of the DPRK were also awarded to the entourage of the Burundi President.

A ceremony for awarding the Order of the Republic of Burundi to President Kim Il Sung was held on the same day at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall.

Present there were Burundi guests.

President Bagaza awarded the "National Order of the Republic," respectively to President Kim Il Sung and his wife.

Orders of the Republic of Burundi were also awarded to cadres and personages concerned of the DPRK.

President Kim Il Sung and his wife arranged a luncheon on the same day in honour of the Burundi guests.

The luncheon took place in an amicable atmosphere.

President Bagaza and madame arranged a grand banquet on Mar. 22 evening at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in hounour of President Kim Il Sung and his wife.

At the banquet President Bagaza and President Kim Il Sung made speeches respectively.

The banquet proceeded in an amicable atmosphere overflowing with friendly feelings.

Ghanaian Gov't Del. Visits DPRK

President Kim Il Sung on Mar. 21 received the government delegation of the Republic of Ghana, according to a KCNA report.

Present on the occasion were the members of the delegation headed by Joshua Hamidu, Member of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Ghana an Chief of Defence Staff of Ghana.

O Jin U, Minister of People's Armed Forces and Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, and personages concerned Pak Jung Guk and Kim Hyong Ryul were present there.

Kofi Baah Aidoo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana to the DPRK, was also on hand.

The head of the delegation courteously conveyed to President Kim Il Sung a personal letter and gifts of His Excellency F.W.K. Akuffo, Head of State and Chairman of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Ghana.

President Kim Il Sung expressed thanks and had a conversation with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Talks between the government delegation of the DPRK and the government delegation of the Republic of Ghana were held in Pyongyang on March 20.

At the talks the two sides exchanged views on further developing the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries and other problems of common concern.

The talks took place in a friendly atmosphere.

The Ghanaian government delegation visited the DPRK from Mar. 20 to 23.

During its stay in the DPRK, they visited Mangyongdae and various places.

Various kinds of functions to welcome the delegation were held.

N-S Table Tennis Talks for Unified Team Must Be Resumed

PYONGYANG, Mar. 26 (KCNA)—The Korean Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee and the Korean Table Tennis Association on Mar. 24 issued a statement proposing to hold the fifth round of talks between delegates of the table tennis associations of the north and the south in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at Panmunjom at 10 on the morning of Mar. 27.

Now the entire Korean people and the world people warmly hail and support this sincere proposal of our side and hope that the talks between delegates of the table tennis associations of the north and south which had failed to bear fruit will be resumed to form without fail the first historic unified team.

The four rounds of talks from Feb. 27 to Mar. 12 showed that the stands of our side and the south Korean side were fundamentally different—one for a unified team and the other for a separate team.

Through the whole course of the talks, our side made consistent, sincere efforts to lead the talks which were arranged with so much efforts to a success on all accounts and form a unified team without fail.

At the talks our side advanced comprehensive, realistic and fair proposals for the formation of a unified team including the problems of selection of players, joint training, composition of the team and its name.

Even when the south Korean side raised the so-called "vested right" problem, which is totally unreasonable and does not conform to the character of the talks, in an attempt to lead the talks to a standstill, our side, proceeding from the sincere stand to break the deadlock of the bilateral talks, proposed to note in the preamble of the agreement of the two sides that they recognize the "vested right" and that it will be effective from the time the two sides signed it.

The fair and aboveboard proposal put forward by our side and its sincere efforts for its realization won the unanimous sympathy and support of the entire compatriots and the world people.

But the south Korean side, which turned up at the talks under the pressure of public opinion at home and abroad, sought a separate team, not a unified team, from the very start to the end.

At the first round of the talks, the south Korean side raised unreasonable proposals to obstruct the formation of a unified team, such as, to set Mar. 12, 1979, as the final limit of the talks, to presuppose the so-called "legal construction of qualification" on a provision of the rules of the International Table Tennis Federation in forming a unified team and to guarantee the participation of a separate team, not a unified team, in the Pyongyang championships.

As for the setting of Mar. 12 as the final limit by the south Korean side in the problem of forming a unified team, it already fully betrayed its ulterior intension.

According to the rules of the ITTF, it is possible to participate in the championships as a unified team if both sides agree upon it on the very day before the championships start, and the ITTF also confirmed this.

While talking that time was very insufficient till Mar.12 for the formation of a unified team, the south Korean side, in deeds, created doubly and trebly artificial difficulties and persistently tried to delay the date of the talks.

(Continued on page 4)

KOREA FOCUS

How Demise of N-S Coordination Commission Came

The DPRK side advanced new proposals at the third round of the resumed north-south talks on Mar. 14.

The proposals envisage calling liaison representatives of the two sides liaison representatives of political parties, public organizations and the authorities. The aim of the new proposals is to assure the continuation of fruitful talks.

What marked the three meetings is a serious but elementary difference of views among the two sides over the denomination of their representatives. Pyongyang insisted that their representatives were for the formation of a preparatory committee for national reunification, whereas Seoul's representatives spoke for the North-South Coordination Commission.

Is there any factual basis in the claim of Seoul either to the representation or the reactivation of the North-South Coordination Commission? The south Korean side alleges, "While demanding the reaffirmation and implementation of the July 4 North-South Joint Statement, the north Korean side denies the composition and operation of the North-South Coordination Commission, one of the seven points provided for in the joint communique." The south Korean argument is like seeing a tree for the wood.

What forms the core of the July 4 joint statement is its point one, stipulating for the three principles of reunification: independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity. Point two calls for a stop to slanders and defamation; point three urges multilateral exchange; point four obligates the two sides to cooperate in the Red Cross talks; point six concerns the formation of the coordination commission in order to accelerate the implementation of the foregoing points; and point seven commits the two sides to their strict implementation. The point here is not in ignoring points 2-7, like disregarding each tree of the wood.

Who is to blame for the withering of each tree and in particular the break up of the coordination commission? It is the Seoul side. The reasons are as follows:

Firstly, the Seoul side from the beginning attempted to limit the activities of the coordination commission and reduce it a working-level body. On Jul.13,1972 the then south Korean "premier" Kim Jong Pil answered to a question at the "national assembly": "The North-South Coordination Commission is not open to politicians." The Jul. 4 joint statement an the following north-south accords clearly stated that the coordination commission was to be cochaired by Kim Yong Ju, chief of organizational affairs of the Workers' Party of Korea and by Li Hu Rak, director of the Central Intelligence Agency and that each vice-cochairman and members should be selected from among those offcials with cabinet rank and their deputies. If they were not politicians, what are they?

From November 2 to 4, 1972, the cochairmen of the coordination commission met in their second encounter in Pyongyang, which ended with the adoption of an accord on the composition and operation of the coordination commission. The following is an account of that agreement by a south Korean news agency almanac *Haptong Yearbook* 1973: "The objective of the coordination commission: to promote the agreed points in the north-south joint statement, to improve and develop north-south relations, to cooperate in various fields, and to work out joint undertakings and the reunification issues on the reunification principles. The functions of the coordination commission: (1)to hold consultations, take decisions and assure their implementation, with regard to the question of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country;(2)to hold consultations, take decisions and assure their implementation, with regard to political interchange among political parties, public organizations and individual persons;(3) to hold consultations and adopt decisions on the matters of economic, cultural, and social exchange; (4)to hold consultations and adopt decisions concerning the reduction of tensions and the elimination of military confrontation; and (5) to hold consultations and adopt decisions regarding cooperation in foreign policy areas."

Secondly, the south Koreans persistently tried to stand in the way of the effective operation of the coordination commission. The said second meeting of the coordination commission held in November 1972 produced an agreement on creating five subcommission, political, diplomatic, military, economic and social. However, the third meeting, the south Koreans insisted on setting up only economic and social subcommissions and refused to take any steps to create the three others on the grounds of their prematurity. Were they saying that the second meeting was mature but the next meeting probed to be premature all of sudden? Such conduct on the part of the south Koreans eventually deadlocked the operation of the coordination commission.

Another factor in the collapse of the coordination commission was the shameless behaviour on the part of the south Korean members of the commission and their dismissal from the body. In August 1973 the south Korean CIA kidnapped a champion of democracy an reunification Kim Dae Jung from Tokyo to Seoul, which met with a prompt protest from the DPRK. The DPRK announced its refusal to talk with such kidnappers. Then, Li Hu Rak was removed from the post of southern cochairman of the coordination commission. Southern vice-cochairman Chang Key Yong died. Was it possible for such organization to survive without the chairman and the deputy chairman?

The earlier-mentioned north-south agreement on the operation of the coordination commission stipulated that the selection of vice-chairmen and members should depend on prior consultations between the north and the south. Since the dismissal of Li Hu Rak, such consultations were never held. The south Korean side picked u Min Kwan Sik to as vice-chairman to the coordination commission and Ham Byong Chun as member to lead its delegation to the current north-south talks. The two persons have never been referred to any prior north-south consultations. In other words, they are not qualified and recognized as such. The north-south agreement has no provision on "spokesmen." The four-member south Korean delegation includes a "spokesman."

Given these facts, is it possible to deny the long demise of the coordination commission? As the south Koreans argue, does the denial of the commission mean the disavowal of the historic Jul. 4 joint statement?

Well aware of the unreasonableness of the arguments of the south Koreans, the DPRK has been open enough to take into consideration those arguments and propose to drop the name of the Fatherland Reunification Front and call the representatives of the two sides liaison officers of political parties, public organizations and the authorities, a proposal acceptable to the south Korean side.

If really committed to the reunification of the fatherland, the south Koreans should accept the latest proposals of the DPRK side.

Khomeini Demands US Disengagement From S. Korea

Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Dam, a special envoy of President Kim Il Sung, paid a call on Khomeini, leader of the People's Movement of Iran, on March 17 in Qom City, according to a KCNA report.

The special envoy courteously conveyed a personal letter of President Kim Il Sung to Khomeini.

Expressing deep thanks for his personal letter, Khomeini extended wholehearted gratitude to respected President Kim Il Sung of Korea for sending a special envoy to greet the victory of the Iranian revolution.

He said that the visit of the special envoy of President Kim Il Sung to Iran at a time when the imperial dictatorship was overthrown and the revolution won victory would contribute to newly developing the friendly relations between the governments and peoples of Iran and Korea and encourage the Iranian people.

Expressing interest in the question of Korean reunification, he pointed out that the United States must take hands off and withdraw from south Korea and all other parts of the world.

He asked the special envoy to convey his best wishes and greetings to President Kim Il Sung.

The conversation took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Present on the occasion were an aide of Khomeini and personages concerned.

The DPRK ambassador to Iran was also present.

On the other hand, Foreign Minister Ho Dam called on Bazargan, Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Iran, on March 18.

Foreign Minister Ho Dam courteously conveyed the warm greetings of President Kim Il Sung to the Prime Minister.

Expressing deep thanks for the warm greetings of the President, Prime Minister Bazargan said:

Respected His Excellency President Kim Il Sung sent his special envoy to us. This is a great honour for the government and people of Iran.

We extend the warmest thanks to respected and beloved President Kim Il Sung.

The support of respected and beloved President and the Korean people to the Iranian revolution is a powerful encouragement to us.

It gives us the greatest joy to enjoy the support of the entire world people, the Korean people in particular.

The Provisional Islamic Revolutionary Government of Iran and people wholeheartedly wish success to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Korean people led by respected President Kim Il Sung.

The conversation took place in a friendly atmosphere.

The DPRK ambassador to Iran was on hand.

President Kim Il Sung's special envoy visited Iran from Mar. 16 to 18.

During his stay, he also met a vice-premier and the foreign minister of Iran and had friendly conversations with them. On Mar. 17 he laid a wreath at the cemetery of the martyrs who laid down their lives in the Iranian revolution.

392nd MAC Meet Held:

Pyongyang Hits "Team Spirit '79"

PANMUNJOM, Mar. 22 (KCNA)—The 392nd meeting of the Military Armistice Commission was held at Panmunjom at the proposal of our side.

At the meeting our side lodged a strong protest with the enemy side against its grave armed provocations committed against our side at a time when the largest-scale war exercise was being conducted in south Korea with the mobilization of colossal numbers of armed forces, and called the enemy side to account for them.

According to the statement made by our senior member Major General Han Ju Gyong at the meeting, around 10:00 hours March 9, south Korean troops took their combat positions in Songdong-ri and Taedong-ri in the lower reaches of the Kimjingang River and fired scores of large calibre machine gun shots towards the inhabited area of Rimhan-ri under our military control on the opposite side.

The south Korean troops did not stop but resumed their firings: Around 17:30 hours, that is, 7 and a half hours later, they again fired from the same place scores of large calibre machine gun shots towards the inhabited area of Rimhan-ri.

The senior member of our side produced a chart illustrating how the incident occurred and pictorial evidence showing one of our dwelling houses through which a large-calibre machine gun bullet fired by south Korean armymen pierced, a fruit tree hit by bullets in an orchard where our cooperative farmers were working and south Korean army's machine gun bullets found on the scene, and thoroughly exposed the enemy's criminal act of having endangered the lives of our peaceable inhabitants and destroyed our dwelling house.

He pointed out that the enemy's recent armed attack upon our peaceable populated area was neither an isolated nor an accidental one but a link and continuation of the provocative gunfirings the enemy side has been systematically committing in the Demilitarized Zone against our side.

He continued: South Korean troops committed the grave hostile act of firing hundreds of bullets and shells toward our side on March 4, 7 and 16.

Besides, the south Korean army has kept on committing such military provocations as fortifying the southern portion of the DMZ, concentrating there various heavy weapons and equipment including tanks and guns, burning down vast areas of the DMZ and flying military helicopters into the air over the southern portion of the DMZ to commit espionage and hostile acts.

The number of such military provocations and hostile acts committed by the enemy during the period from January 11 to March 18 this year is more than 4,600.

The senior member of our side said:

Our side has all along made every possible effort to materialize the appeal of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland which proposed to the military authorities in the north and the south to cease all hostile military actions and exercises unconditionally from zero hours on March 1, 1979.

The enemy, however, conducted the massive military exercise called "Team Spirit '79" reeking of gun-powder under the command of the "ROK-U.S. combined forces command" from March 1.

The senior member of our side exposed the heinous purpose of the enemy's recent war exercise, saying that it was a "test war" designed to test the capability of swiftly bringing to the Korean front the U.S. armed forces from U.S. mainland and areas surrounding Korea at an time in the future.

He scathingly denounced the enemy's reckless war exercise conducted in south Korea not only as a wanton violation of the armistice agreement but also a blatant challenge and insult to our sincere efforts for the north-south dialogue and for the peaceful reunification of Korea and as a grave criminal act endangering peace and straining the situation in Korea and the rest of Asia.

Dissidents Disclose Renewed Human Rights Violation in S. Korea

The Pa' Jung Hi "regime's" total violatio of human rights is now faced with stronger protest at home, as the nation's desire for democracy and national reunification is being given a new impetus by the resumption of north-south talks.

According to a report from Seoul, the human rights committee under the South Korean Council of Christian Churches sent on Mar. 16 an open letter to Pak Jung Hi and an appeal to international organizations, in connection with the intensifying suppression of human rights by his dictatorial regime.

The presentation of these documents was made public at a press conference given in a Seoul church that day.

According to the committee, the authorities have walked or placed under house arrest a number of democratic dissidents on or around Mar. 1, in a desperate effort to hold in check their planned anti-"government" actions on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the nation's Independence Movement against the Japanese colonial rule.

The Christian activists revealed that about 60 religionists, journalists and students had been arrested or placed under house arrest since the end of February, and the pl-nned meetings forced to be cancelled. Amon th: arrested, six are yet to be released. They were arrested for their demand for free debate on national reunification, the committee said. Among them are Paek Ki Wan, director of the Institute for the Study of Paek Pom's Thoughts, and Cho Sung U, chairman of the Democratic Youth Council for Human Rights.

In the open letter to Pak Jung Hi, the human rights committee questioned le al basis of such repressive measures and cast stong doubts on the authorities' purpose in arresting dissidents at the time when talks had started between north and south. The committee held the Pak "regime" responsible for the illegal detention. It also criticized the authoritarian regime for barring the people from freely discussing the reunification question, despite its proposal for unconditional resumption of the talks.

In an appeal to international organizations, including the London-based Amnesty International, the Christians called upon them to pay more serious attention to the continuing violation of human rights in sout Korea.

SIT-DOWN

On the same day, 2? members of the Democatic Youth Council for Human Rights started a sit-in at the house of former professor Mun Ik Hwan of "Hanguk Theological College." They demanded immediate release of all the political prisoners. Mrs. Chong Kum Song, the mother of the dissident poet Kim Chi Ha, participated in the sit-down.

Mun and Kim are still in prison, although some political prisoners were paroled last December. But, even the realeased are still under police surveillance. The are now constantly threatened to be rearrested and detained at any time, if the authorities regard their activities as "harmful to public security."

A dissident woman Li Wu Jong was taken away by plainclothesmen after attending a prayer meeting for democracy held on Mar. 1, 1977 at the Christian center in Seoul.

American Missionary:

Carter's Human Rights Policy Hypocrisy

An American missionary James Sinnott on Mar. 15 spoke at the National Council of Churches on "American-Japanese relations" held in Tokyo.

He denounced the Carter administration, saying that the president had ignored the violation of human rights in south Korea in favour of protecting the high profits being made by the Japanese.

The missionary was expelled from south Korea in 1975, because of his outspoken criticism of the Pak Jung Hi regime's human rights violation.

Follow gists of the speech of James Sinnott reported by the Japanese English-language daily "Mainich Daily News", Mar. 17:

Sinnott said that President Carter was afraid of disrupting the American-Japanese connection.

"The Japanese warned the president to lay off south Korea because it would be a threat to their (the Japanese) national security. But it is obvious to all concerned that this 'concern for national security' is merely a cover for the fact that the Japanese are exploiting the south Koreans for sheer profit," Sinnott said.

Father Sinnott, a Catholic missionary in Inchon from 1960 to 1975, was ordered to leave south Korea by the authorities for repeatedly speaking out against the Park Chung Hee regime and for assisting the wives of eight south Koreans who were executed for purportedly belonging to a group known as the "anti-government People's Revolutionary Party (PRP)."

The wives demanded permission to see their husbands' bodies and Father Sinnott joined their demonstration outside the prison where the men were being held.

The bodies of six of the eight were eventually handed back to their bereaved families but those of the remaining two were taken straight to the crematory.

"There has been a lot of criticism about missionaries becoming involved in politics," Father Sinnott went on "But if it's more important to exploit south Korea and keep good relations with Japan, then this is immoral. So it is up to the church to protest that this is not a good reason on which to base a foreign policy.

The church in south Korea is providing a channel that is not only used by Christians but by the oppressed people of south Korea who insist that their rights be recognized. The poor people in south Korea have so far accepted their plight with docility, but recently the problems of inflation have forced them to speak and the non-mummified portion of the Christian Churches in south Korea must play a role in protecting those who can no longer tolerate a regime that tortures and imprisons them for speaking out."

Commenting on Japanese tourists visiting south Korea, Sinnott voiced strong concern about the "sex tours organized by the south Korean tourism industry and the government," saying that this "racket" was a big source of income that contributed to the economic development and economic miracle of south Korea.

..I am not asking for pity, money, or even prayers for the south Korean people. I am only asking that people become aware. In the last four years I have spoken in 230 American cities and the American people are finally beginning to realize that south Korea is costing them money. Their answer has been to pressure their congressmen, either vocally or in written form to put a stop to the American protection of atrocities in south Korea."

"When I left south Korea in 1975 Jimmy Carter wasn't even hear of. Using the platform of human rights he was elected to the presidency yet within a month we were told that these policies would not apply to south Korea or the Philippines. Now we find that the U.S. president will be visiting south Korea in June to shake the hand of a dictator who employs the very policies that Carter had condemned. The president will be going to south Korea with human rights tattoed on his chest, and it is up to both the American and Japanese people to speak out against this hypocrisy," Sinnott concluded.

James Sinnott was dragged away by prison guards from the Sodae-mun prison, when he protested the execution of "PRP" members on Apr. 9, 1975. Right after, the resident American missionary was expelled from south Korea.

* * *

Koreans in Canada for Pan-National Forum

In support of the north-south talks for national reunification, the Canada Society for the Study of Democracy and National Reunification issued a statement on Jan. 31. his society inaugurated last year by Korean residents in the North American country, has devoted itself to arousing fellow countrymen there into action for the reunification of their divided country.

The statement said in part:

The resumption of the suspended north-south talks for the sake of the restoration of national integration, the great cause of the entire nation, will please us to the utmost. Despite the past rupture, the renewed efforts for the reunification talks heighten our expectations and receive our more active support.

There is no doubt that the only way for our nation should be found in the earliest end to the present division. This view is unanimously shared by all the fellow countrymen both at home and abroad. The realization of our keen and strong desire for national reunification brooks no delay.

The situation in Northeast Asia around China is recently shifting favourably for the solution of the Korean question. A the United States is making rapprochement with China, it has now no reason to continue its anti-communist front on the Korean Peninsula, remaining hostile to the opposite ideology and social system. After all, the Military Demarcation Line dividing the peninsula into two parts is sure to be removed before long. Under the pressure brought to bear on it by the changing situations at home and abroad, Seoul was forced to propose the resumption of north-south talks.

As is clearly shown in the latest proposals made by both sides, Pyongyang's proposals are more concrete and positive rather than Seoul's.

In its package proposal, Pyongyang suggested that a pan-national congress be convened in September so as to discuss a number of relevant matters on national reunification, including the reciprocal opening of north and south Korean society and the free activities of all political parties in both parts. For this purpose, a preparatory meetin was also proposed t be called in coming June in Pyongyang. Among other things, Pyongyang proposed to discontinue slanders and military actions against each other.

S ecial attention should b focussed upon the reciprocal opening of society and the free activities of political parties in both parts.

The continued division of our country has prevented fellow countrymen in the north and south from seeing the opposite society. This has added fuel to mutual misunderstanding, distrust and hostility. The only way to remove such antagonisms is for the north and south to open society to each other. When the people of each part see the opposite society with their ow eyes, they can determine by themselves which society is better for the nation.

As for the free activities of political parties, the Workers' Party and opposition parties in the north should be given the freedom of activities in the south, on one hand, and, reciprocally, the Democrati- Republica Party and opposition parties in the south should be given the same in the north, on the other hand. First of all, democracy is essential for this purpose. There is no reason to hesitate to establish democracy in the country, or oppose it. So, we hope that these proposals will e discussed and an agreement reached at the north-south talks to be resumed shortly.

Japanese Dietman:

Opposition Leader under House Arrest

An independent member of the House of Representatives, Utsunomiya Tokuma met the press here on Mar. 9 at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Tokyo.

This press conference was called in an effort to arouse world opinion throug the international press that would focus attention on the unbearable conditions that the former south Korean "presidential" candidate, Kim Dae Jung, and his family are living under, the former LDP Dietman said.

He resigned from the ruling party in 1976, to protest the handling of the Lockheed scandal by the LDP.

Utsunomiya reminded that Kim remains under virtual house arrest even after the parole of last December.

Follow excerpts from his statement at the press conference carried by the Japanese English-language daily "Asahi Evening News," Mar. 10:

Utsunomiya stated that before coming to the press club he had talked with Kim on the telephone and was told that both he and his wife have been virtully under house arrest for the last three days and cannot even step outside of their home.

Utsunomiya said that he could not understand the denial by the south Korean government of a proposed visit by the Diet member in February. He said that following Kim's release from prison last December he had been invited by his long time friend, to visit him in south Korea and study the political and economic conditions and possibly meet with government officials.

According to the progressive Dietman, often known as a maverick among some of his contemporaries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Gaimusho) forwarded a request in early February that he be issued a visa to study the political and economic situation and visit Kim Dae Jung. This request was subsequently denied and the only reason given was that the timing of the proposed visit was unfavorable.

In view of the 600,000 visas granted to Japanese citizens last year in addition to the close economic and politica relations between the two countries, Utsunomiya strongly feels such a reply is highly inadequate, and assumes the actual reason for the denial was due to his proposed visit with Kim.

He added that in the face of this refusal the Japanese Government was in the process of taking certain steps on his behalf on an unofficial level.

He said that while the Kim Dae Jung case is only one of many incidents among human rights violations new taking place in south Korea he feels that Kim's situation is of special interest to Japan because of his kidnaping from a Tokyo hotel in August, 1973, which, Utsunomiya states, was a flagrant violation of Japan's sovereignty.

The ten-times reelected House member said that he had hoped the release of Kim by the south Korean government was a step forward in the cause for human rights but feels now that this is obviously not the case and he questions whether or not south Korea is a free or totalitarian state.

In referring to his telephone conversation with Kim, he said that the entire family is enduring severe mental suffering that has resulted in the ill health of both Kim's wife and youngest son.

Utsunomiya said that he had wanted to visit south Korea since last year in view of the new relationship between China and the United States that has given an entirely new perspective to North-South relations.

He stated that in bringing them together a general disarmament on both sides was necessary, which could also act as a great boost to the economies of the divided country.

In previous talks with Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader has indicated that he favored a path towards disarmament, Utsunomiya said.

In closing he said that although he was greatly disappointed in being denied entry into south Korea he still intends to continue his work in easing the tensions that exist on the Korean Peninsula.

Chronic Pollution Plagues Urbanites

Man cannot live without air and water.

In the cities of south Korea including Seoul it is difficult to breathe fresh air because of polluted air caused by pollution-causing enterprises.

Besi es, a lot of rivers including the Han-gang River in Seoul, supply sources of drinking water for the Seoul residents, are now dead rivers.

Air Pollution 30 Times Up 1965

The Choson Ilbo of south Korea reported in its Feb. 27 issue as follows:

"In major cities such as Seoul and Pusan, and in many parts of the industrial areas, air has become dirtier and dirtier in recent years.

"Especially, the air in Seoul is so dirty that even a wealthy man feels sick if he is on a downtown street during rush hours and Mt. Namsan is seen enveloped in polluted air like fog."

Air pollution in major cities, Seoul included, is a serious sociai problem which cannot be ignored any longer.

Even according to data released on Feb. 15 by the "Department of Health and Social Affairs" of south Korea, air pollution became rapidly serious in Seoul, Pusan, Inchon, Taegu, Masan, Ulsan, Ryochon and other big cities as well as in other industrial areas from the beginning of the 1970's. Above all, the average air pollution by oxides of sulphur (such as sulfurous acid gas) in Seoul, Pusan and Inchon is 0.047-0.449 ppm as of the end of 1978, higher than 0.04 ppm, a permissible level by the enviromental standards of Japan.

According to the results of a factfinding survey on air pollution conducted last December by the "Institute for the Study of Industrial Administration" of sout Korea, the volume of discarged air pollution-causing substances grew 15 times in 10 years from 1965 to 1975, and is estimated to be 30 times by 1980.

Urban residents are suffering from various diseases due to air pollution.

As experts acknowledge, the increase in the cases of various diseases such as respiratory, lung and eye diseases is a direct effect of the air pollution.

Even according to data made public these years by the Seoul municipal office, one of every three Seoulites is suffering from such diseases as chronic bronchitis, bronchial asthma, cerebral anemia, heart disease, etc.

For example, among the residents in Songsu-dong, Songdong-gu, Seoul where there are 450 pollution-causing factories, the incidence of bronchitis, asthma and chronic giddiness is particularly high.

A Kim, who has lived in this district for 15 years and has suffered from bronchitis, says, "Even young people are suffering from bronchitis." Another resident says, "Because of bronchitis and giddiness, expenses for medical care and drugs hold a high percentage in our living costs."

"In this district, people cannot hang out washing due to the air pollution, nor can they open windows in summer. (ong-A Ilbo, Nov. 30, 1978)

Inhabitants are plagued by smog disgorged from pollution-causing factories, wherever they may move.

Daily 2M-Ton Waste Water Discharged Into Han-gang

Public hazards are also caused by the seriously polluted warers in south Korea.

The Han-gang River, whose water in the upper reaches in Mt. Odae-san in Kangwon Province is clear, becomes a polluted river due to discharged waters, amountig 2 million tons a day, where the river flows into Seoul.

According to a fact-finding survey conducted by the environmental problem section of the Seoul Municipal Office, the pollution degree of the Han-gang River along its course is 14.6ppm in Kayang, 9.4 ppm in Yongdungpo 6.7 ppm in Roryangjin, 6.3 ppm in Po-gang, and 6.2 ppm in S nyu, higher than 6 ppm, a standard-value set by the WHO.

These figures are 6.2-14.6 times as high as 1 ppm, the pollution degree of the upper stream of the Tama River, a supply source of water to the waterworks of Tokyo.

Seoul has a population of 7 million people. Forty-one per cent of them drink polluted water from five river water sources.

A survey conducted by the "South Korean Environmental Protection Association" shows that 91% of 1,200 pollees think the pollution of the Han-gang River has reached a very dangerous level.

Famous rivers like Kumgang, Yonsangang and Raktonggang in Kyonggi Province are getting worse and worse. The river contamination is so grave that paddy-fields accounting for 61% of the total 13,000 chongbo are seriously polluted, causing damage to farmers.

A farmer in Kyonggi Province says:

"Eight or nine years ago we enjoyed fishing in rivers. But now we cannot see even a loach. Even weeds which thickly covered the river banks, are now gone.

"How can we do farm work with that dirty water!"

In south Korea, the sea as well as the rivers is becoming dirtier. The sea around the east coast areas such as Ulsan, Ryosu, Mokpo, Kunsan and Inchon have become so dirty that fish is seen floating on the water. The dirty water is caused mainly by pollution-causing Japanese-owned factories.

Thus, the south Korean people deplore their devastated land:

"How longer do we have to live with dirty water and air?"

River Han-gang running through the heart of Seoul is polluted to its bed by a huge quantity of waste water discharged every day from factories located along the river.

Pollution-Causing Factories Without Control

Despite the seriousness of air and water pollutions the south Korean authorities have taken no steps to prevent them.

On the contrary, they help pollution increase.

The south Korean authorities have long inducted Japanese and other foreign pollution-causing factories and enterprises under the cloak of "industrialization".

"Nihon Kagaku"(Japan Chemical) which has been criticized as a pollution-causing firm of Japan was invited to establish a plant in Ulsan and start the "Ulsan Inorganic Chemistry".

As a result, Ulsan has been turned into a seriously polluted area.

The south Korean authorities permit factories and enterprises run by comprador capitalists to discharge their waste water into rivers.

Factories causing air or water pollution numbered 15,772, even according to an official survey made public on Feb. 13 by the "Ministry of Health and Social Affairs." Sixty-five per cent of those factories were not equipped with necessary facilities to prevent pollution, on the excuse of "lack of funds."

Officially, the south Korean authorities pretend that they are fighting against pollution, formulating an "Enviornmental Protection Law." In reality, they are doing nothing about it.

All these facts boil down to one fact that air and water pollution in south Korea have not come by itself, but have been caused by measures taken by the south Korean authorities to protect the interests of pullution-causing foreign factories and enterprises.

Rodong Sinmun Flays Southern African Racists

Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK), Mar. 21, marked the Day against Racism, carrying a signed article titled "Brutal Rule of Racism Must Be Brought to an End at an Early Date".

The paper says:

The South African racists have trumped up numerous fascist evil laws to maintain their racist rule and are arresting, imprisoning and massacring at will people who demand freedom and liberation.

They illegall occupied Namibia and are employing every means to put down the liberation struggle of the Namibian people and bar their genuine independence.

The Smith racists in Rhodesia proclaimed a martial law in 90 per cent of the territory of the country and are intensifying their bloody suppression of the Zimbabwea people, conducting "scorched-earth operations" by mobilizin troops armed to the teeth.

Backed by the imperialists, the South African and Rhodesian racists are slaughtering a large number of peaceable inhabitants and destroying property these days, more frequently committing brigandish armed attacks on such neighbouring African countries as Angola, Mozambique and Zambia.

Branding the souther African racist clique as the root cause of the sufferings and disasters of the peoples in this region and an obstacle lying on the road to the complete liberation of the African Continent, the article points to the valiant struggle of the peoples in this region against the racist clique.

It says:

The struggle of the southern African peoples is a sacred struggle for liquidating the brutal racist regime and breaking the chains of colonialism in this region.

No force can hold in check the struggle of the southern African peoples to become the genuine masters of their countries, holding their destiny in their hands.

The just cause of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Nambia and South Africa who have risen in the sacred struggle for entombing racism and achieving liberation and independence will certainly emerge victorious.

Speech of President KIM IL SUNG

At Banquet

PYONGYANG Mar 20 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung made a speech at a banquet he arranged this evening in honour of His Excellency Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, President of the Republic of Burundi, on a visit to our country.

Follows the full text of his speech:

☆ ☆

Respected Your Excellency President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and Madame,

Guests from Burundi.
Comrades and friends

Today we are very happy to meet Your Excellency Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, Chairman of the Supreme Revolutionary Council and President of the Republic of Burundi, as the first Head of State of a friendly country visiting our country in 1979.

Allow me first of all to warmly welcome the visit of Your Excellency President to our country, and expression of great support to and trust in us, and express thanks to you for your sincerity shown in making a long journey come to us carrying cordial fraternal feeling with you.

It carries weighty significance that the leaders of friendly countries advancing hand in hand on the road of anti-imperialism and independence further deepen mutual understanding and confirm the common view and stand on the changing situation through their visits and contacts.

Your current visit to our country will go a long way toward bringing the friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples of Korea and Burundi to a new stage and promoting the common cause of the Asian and African peoples.

Korea and Burundi have forged the firm relations of fraternal friendship for their commonness of opposing all manner of domination and subjugation and maintaining independence.

The Burundi people, under the correct leadership of respected Your Excellency President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, are in unity vigorously carving out the road of building a new life with their own labour, putting up the slogan of self-reliance.

Since the proclamation of the Second Republic by you in November 1976, in your country a new system has been established, a series of progressive reforms have been enforced for liquidating exploitation of man by man and a big stride forward has been made in building up the party, strengthening national unity and developing industry, agriculture, education and national culture.

Maintaining good relations with neighbouring countries on the basis of the policy of non-alignment, the Government of the Republic of Burundi strives to strengthen unity and solidarity of the African countries and fully supports the oppressed nations in their struggle against imperialism and for liberation.

The successes made by the Burundi people in the reconstruction of the country and the building of a new society are a common achievement of the third world countries.

We highly appreciate and sincerely hail your successes.

The struggle of the Burundi people for the independent development of the country is a component part of the sacred struggle of the entire African people for the complete liberation and unity of Africa.

Today in southern Africa the racist clique, backed by the imperialists, is suppressing the struggle of the people for freedom and liberation and frequently perpetrating armed invasions against the neighbouring front-line countries.

We strongly denounce the South African and Rhodesian racists for their repression of the people and aggressive acts against the neighbouring countries and fully support the struggle of the Zimbabwean, Namibian and South African peoples for freedom and liberation and the resolute stand of the front-line countries supporting them and express firm solidarity with the entire African people in their struggle for the complete liberation and unity of Africa.

Your Excellency President,

The Korean and Burundi peoples are close brothers standing in the same ranks of the non-aligned movement.

We remember the invariable, firm support and encouragement extended by you and the party, government and people of Burundi to our people in their just struggle against the foreign invasion and interference against Korea and for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and are grateful for them.

Your current visit to our country is another great encouragement to our people in the struggle for socialist construction and national reunification and an important event adding lustre to the history of friendship between the two peoples.

The situation today when disputes are arising in various parts of the world owing to the manoeuvres of the imperialist and other dominationist forces the imperialist makes us feel more keenly the necessity to strengthen the unity and solidarity of the third world countries and non-aligned countries.

The Korean people will strengthen in every way the friendship and solidarity with the Burundi people and do everything possible to defend the unity of the non-aligned movement and develop it and continue to persistently fight to liquidate imperialism, colonialism and racism in Asia and Africa and make the liberation of nations complete and final.

Expressing once again great joy at meeting Your Excellency President, the respected leader of the Burundi people, as our close friend this evening, I propose a toast to the indestructive friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Burundi peoples, the development and prosperity of the Republic of Burundi, the unity of the world people advocating independence, the health of respected Your Excellency President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and Madame, the health of guests from Burundi and the health of comrades and friends present here.

Speech of President BAGAZA

At Banquet

PYONGYANG, Mar. 20 (KCNA)—Follows the full text of a speech made by His Excellency Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, President of the Republic of Burundi, at a banquet arranged this evening in his honour by the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung:

☆ ☆

Your Excellency President Kim Il Sung, the respected and beloved leader of the Korean people,
Madame Kim Song Ae,
Comrades,
Dear friends,

Permit me, Mr. President, to extend, in the name of the delegation of Burundi, the people of Burundi, the Party of National Unity and Progress (UPRONA) and our own, profound gratitude to Your Excellency President for the amicable invitation and for the particular attention and welcome full of joy accorded us from the moment of our arrival in your beautiful country.

Permit me also to say how we are moved by your sensible words of praise to our country and us.

We have come, crossing rivers, oceans and continents to be your agreeable company and bring to you, Comrade President, the Workers' Party of Korea and the friendly Korean people the warm and cordial salutations of the people of Burundi.

The Burundi people admire and laud the gigantic efforts made by the Korean people under the brilliant leadership of their respected and beloved leader President Kim Il Sung for more than 30 years for the building of a veritable socialist society.

Under the impulsion of the immortal revolutionary idea of Juche, the hardworking and disciplined Korean people have achieved immense successes in all domains, in agriculture and industry in particular.

Your Excellency President,

Burundi and Korea are far away from each other geographically, but many common points unite them.

The Burundi and Korean peoples had spent a long period of colonization during which rigorous sacrifices were imposed upon them.

Colonialism and imperialism sought to change the mode of life, destroy the culture of our peoples and thus reduce us to instruments in their service.

To destabilise our country, our enemy orchestrated troubles based on divisions of all sorts.

Despite these aims of the enemies of the country, the Burundi people, thanks to their courages, vigilance and patriotism, have surmounted all these difficulties.

But we stress that all these victories have been won with the aid and support, material and moral, of friendly countries.

We are happy to say that among them is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to which we express here sincere thanks of the Burundi people.

With the advent of the Second Republic issuing from the November 1, 1976, movement we have assigned ourselves to the fundamental objective of establishing a society just and democratic in all domains.

We are striving to create state structures in such a way as to make it possible and irreversible to create a society under the reign of peace, social justice and national concord: a society where each citizen is conscious of his responsibility in the process of the development of our country

The realisation of this objective will be assured by our UPRONA Party whose philosophy is based on the principles of the struggle against exploitation of man by man, of being master of their natural resources, relying on their own efforts and creating a new mentality based on the spirit of justice, labour and production and of rehabilitating and revitalising national culture.

In this action we should teach our people that we should first of all believe in our own forces.

But, this national effort for the development of our country still requires the aid and support of friendly countries.

In this regard, we are rejoiced over the evolution of cooperation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Burundi in all domains, economic, cultural and others.

The Burundi population highly appreciates the devotion and discipline with which the technicians of Korea perform their mission at difficult workshops.

We would like to express our satisfaction here.

We are rejoiced over the fact that this contribution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to our efforts for development has been made thanks to the solicitude of the father of the Korean revolution, His Excellency Marshal Kim Il Sung, the respected and beloved leader.

Mr. President,

With a concern to contribute to the maintenance of peace in Africa and the world, our foreign policy is based on the principles of good neighbourhood, international cooperation, non-alignment and support to the liberation movements and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The Republic of Burundi attaches great importance to the good relations and regards it the pillar of her foreign policy. We think that this policy can promote peace and unity in Africa and the world.

As a non-aligned country, we are striving to create the bonds with all countrieswhich, irrespective of ideological distinction, respect our policy of development and our national independence.

We consider that Africa and all other parts of the world still under foreign domination should be free to decide the destiny of their peoples.

In this connection, in conformity with the resolutions of the United Nations and the organization of African unity on the right of the people to self-determination, the Republic of Burundi supports the peoples in the struggle for the right to self-determination.

And, Burundi recognizes and defends the principle that conflicts among states can find a satisfactory solution not by means of force but by means of negotiation without any interference of foreign powers.

Concerning the Korean problem, we fully support the orientation advanced by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, which accelerates the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and the energetic struggle of the Korean people for its realisation and for the withdrawal of foreign troops from south Korea.

For the Korean cause the position of Burundi was and is unchangeable. It was to express more clearly our solidarity and our support to this just cause that we have formed a committee of support and solidarity for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

In the international forum our position is clear. In this regard, we attended conducted brisk activities at the two world conferences for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Mr. President,

The bonds of friendship and cooperation linking our two countries on the road of development will certainly be reinforced through this visit to your beautiful country, and will permit us not only to cooperate in the interests of our peoples but also to promote peace and justice in the world.

In conclusion, we would like to renew our thanks to you for the very enthusiastic and emotional welcome to us and the delegation accompanying us and propose a toast to the longevity of the respected and beloved, great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il Sung and Madame Kim Song Ae,

To the prosperity of the great Korean people,

To the victory of the just cause of the Korean people,

To the friendship and cooperation between Korea and Burundi,

To the health of the leading personnel of the Korean Party and Government present here and to the health of all friends present here.

Asian Wall Street Journal:

"North Korean Official Indicates Political Flexibility"

The Asian Wall Street Journal Mar. 14 carried an article entitled "North Korean Official Indicates Political Flexibility." The story was written by Eduardo Lachica and Seth Lipsky, Special to the Asian Wall Street Journal.

Follows its full text:

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TOKYO-North Korea views the changing geopolitical map in Asia as bullish for peace on the Korean Peninsula. It's prepared to be flexible in its recently reopened reunification talks with South Korea. It's also willing to go as far as the U.S. presidential retreat at Camp David to seek a conversion of its armistice with the U.S. into a permanent peace treaty.

Pyongyang believes these thrusts ought to bring a lasting peace to one of the world's major trouble sports. But it isn't optimistic for success—at least in the short run. It sees the roadblocks as intransigence on the part of the U.S. and insincerity on the part of the South Koreans. It warns that unless something is done South Korea will turn into the sort of "shambles" that resulted in Iran.

Open Posture Indicated

That is the picture sketched out in a rare interview by a senior North Korean spokesman here. The spokesman is Bak Jae Ro, a vice chairman of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan. The association is a major, although unofficial, arm of the North Korean government. The interview is the first private meeting between a senior association official and Western newsmen in two years. The fact it was granted, North Korean aides here suggest, indicates that, despite these problems, North Korea is taking a more open posture than in recent years.

In a two-hour conversation with reporters of The Asian Wall Street Journal, Mr. Bak:

- said the big picture is favouring peace. The picture includes the signing of a peace and friendship treaty between Japan and China and the normalization of relations this year between China and the U.S. "We view the Sino-Japanese treaty and Sino-American normalization as beneficial to peace and security as a whole, which we believe in turn helps reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula," Mr. Bak said.
- reiterated that North Korea wants to talk with the U.S. about formally ending the Korean conflict. "If America were willing, we'd go to Camp David, no doubt," Mr. Bak said. North Korea wants to convert to a peace treaty the armistice signed by the U.S., China and North Korea that ended the fighting in 1953. "We have knocked at the door to Washington a dozen times," Mr. Bak said. "There is a teaching, 'knock, and the door shall be opened...' We knocked, but it isn't opened." One reason is that the North contends South Korea shouldn't be included in talks to take the armistice to a peace treaty, because South Korea never signed the armistice. Some South Korean officials have suggested a summit along the lines of that between Egypt and Israel.

But the U.S. has made clear that it won't deal with North Korea behind the South's back, no matter how hard Pyongyang tries to speak for the entire peninsula. For the past three years, Washington has sought a four-power peace conference—the two Koreas, China and the U.S.—without success. In the interview, Mr. Bak didn't indicate any new North Korean willingness to include the South in summit talks.

- insisted that reunification of the divided Korea is a separate issue and that the big powers must keep out. "Reunification is a purely domestic concern of the Korean people, so it is our desire that neighboring countries should behave in such a way as to help us establish one Korea and not perpetuate a division of Korea." The key provocation, Mr. Bak argued, is the presence of American troops in South Korea.
- rejected any notion that what the West views as an economic miracle in South Korea holds any attraction for the North. Mr. Bak was unwilling to pay the South Korean economy the sort of compliments it has received in recent months from such unlikely sources as China, which has embarked on a massive development program in partnership with the capitalist powers of Japan, the U.S. and Europe. "South Korea's economy," Mr. Bak contended, "is simply part of foreign economies and nothing more."
- warned that South Korea is on the road to becoming another Iran. "The South Korean economy," Mr. Bak charged, "is the worst case of the Iran-type economy..." "He charged that dictatorial government, a widening gap between rich and poor, a dependence on foreign capital, a repressive secret police, corruption in government and resentment among the people are common attributes of South Korea under Park Chung Hee and Iran under Shan Mohammed Reza Pahlavi until the shah's fall. South Korea, he warned, will "end up as the same shambles."

Carter Move Regretted

Despite such harsh words, Mr. Bak suggested that North Korea is prepared to press for some solution with more flexibility than in the past. The "big picture," he said, implies greater concern among the major powers about peace in the region. This concern among the big power isn't the "key" to North Korea's growing flexibility, he said. That stems from a commitment to a reunified Korea. But he suggested North Korea clearly favors the detente between the U.S. and China and between China and Japan. "So," he said, "it is quite natural for us to pay attention to that international concern."

Mr. Bak said it is "a matter of regret" that President Jimmy Carter "changed his mind" about pulling out U.S. troops from South Korea. North Korea moderated its hostility toward the U.S. shortly after Mr. Carter's election in late 1976 but turned aloof once more when it became clear that the U.S. President was reconsidering the timing of the pullout. Pyongyang's refusal to talk directly with American newsmen for the past two years is in part the result of its disenchantment with Mr. Carter's policies, Mr. Bak's aides said.

To successfully conclude U.S.-North Korean talks Mr. Bak said, it's necessary to announce a definite troop withdrawal and to leave Korean affairs "to the Korean people."

North Korea appears intent on keeping its initatives toward U.S. and Seoul on separate tracks. It's willing to talk peace bilaterally with the U.S. and, in a separate effort, discuss with South Korea a scaling down of troop levels to about "100,000 men" for each country, Mr. Bak said. North Korea now has a standing force of 430,000 troops while the South has 560,000.

Mr. Bak claimed that North Korea is determined to avoid a renewal of war. "Any war in the narrow" Korean Peninsula would "destroy everything. Both the North and the South will suffer," he asserted.

South Korean officials have shown no interest for Pyongyang's mutual force reduction offer, claiming that the idea is unworkable while "distrust" still exists between the two countries.

Mr. Bak questioned the sincerity of South Korea's own recent actions. He argued that the recent round of reunification talks stemmed from the Sept. 9, 1979, statement of North Korea's President, Kim Il Sung. The statement came on the 30th anniversary of the founding of North Korea. In it, Mr. Kim insisted the door was open for a "conversation with the United States and with the South Korean authorities and political parties, too."

It wasn't until Jan. 19, 1979, that South Korea's president, Mr. Park, stated his government was willing to talk as well. South Korea contends this statement is the one that got the talks started. Mr. Bak viewed it as a response that came a little late but as nonetheless a "positive response" to the North's earlier proposal. So the North, as he sketched the picture, responded with its own proposals of Jan. 23, 1979. These proposals included, among other items, a call for a halt to hostilities and an end to propaganda campaigns.

Panmunjom Talks

Since then, talks have taken place at the Korean truce village of Panmunjom on two subjects. One is efforts to put together a joint team of North Korean and South Korean players to participate in the world ping-pong championships to be held at Pyongyang in late April and May 1979. The other is some preliminary jockeying for a format for discussions for talks on the much more important issue of reunification.

The talks haven't achieved much progress yet. The South Koreans blame this on Pyongyang's insistence on using an unwieldy Pan-Korean Congress as the forum for the talks. Mr. Bak blamed it on what he argues is a basic lack of commitment on South Korea's part. He contended South Korea has "no interest" in the goal of "one Korea." He argued that the progress so far suggests, "that the prospects aren't bright and that the North-South talks will have to follow a zig and zag."

But, Mr. Bak said, "we're determined to bring the just-resumed North-South dialogue to a happy ending by whatever necessary means and to live up to the expectations of the Korean people and the world community."

Support-Korea-Reunion Meets Held in Rome

An enlarged meeting of the International Liaison Committee for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea and a meeting of chairmen of committees for supporting Korea's reunification in West European countries were held in Rome.

Attending the enlarged meeting of the International Liaison Committee for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea held between March 9 and 10 were representatives of Japan, France, Italy, Belgium, Cuba, Madagascar, the United States, Yugoslavia, Britain, Portugal, Spain and Luxemburg.

It was also attended by the Chairman of the Italian Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification and the Chairman of the Italian Association for Cultural Relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who are Senators, and representatives of political parties and public organisations and a large number of individual personages of Italy.

The meeting discussed "On summing up the work of the Second World Conference for the Reunification of Korea and supporting and encouraging the efforts of the Korean people to prevent the national split, put an end to hostile actions and convene a whole-nation congress for the realisation of national reunification" and "on the action program of the international liaison committee."

The meeting adopted an appeal to the governements, parliaments, political parties and public organisations of various countries of the world, the national committees for supporting Korea's reunification and the world peace-loving people and the 1979 action program of the international liaison committee for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

The meeting of chairmen of committees for supporting Korea's reunification in West European countries held on March 10 was attended by representatives of France, Britain, Italy, Yugoslavia, Portugal, Norway, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Denmark, Cuba and Japan and the General Secretary of the International Committee of Jurists for Democracy and Human Rights in South Korea.

Also attending the meeting were members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Italy and many representatives of political parties and public organisations.

The meeting discussed the question of "strengthening joint action in the solidarity movement of the European people supporting the struggle of the Korean people for the peaceful reunification of the country in conformity with the new situation in Korea."

The meeting adopted a letter to the political parties, public organisations and personages of European countries.

A press conference was held that day in connection with the close of the meetings.

Rodong Sinmun on Paris Commune

PYONGYANG, Mar. 18 (KCNA)—Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) today dedicates a signed article titled "Immortal Exploits of the Paris Commune" to the 108th anniversary of the proclamation of the Paris Commune.

Stressing that the Paris Commune left imperishable exploits in the history of the international communist movement and working-class movement, it says:

The commune dealt a heavy blow at capitalism and powerfully inspired the world working class to the struggle against capital's oppression and tyranny.

The commune smashed the myth about the "eternity" of capitalism much vaunted by the exploiting classes and clearly showed that the proletarian revolution would surely emerge victorious.

The Paris Commune also made a great contribution to the development of the revolutionary theory of the working class.

Basing themselves on a scientific analysis of the experience and lesson of the Paris Commune Marx and Engels proved that the power of the working class can be established only on the basis of liquidating the old bourgeois state apparatuses and further developed and enriched the theory on the proletarian revolution and proletarian dictatorship.

The bloody lesson of the Paris Commune taught the world revolutionary peoples and communists that the revolutionary cause of the working class can be successfully carried out only when they are armed with the genuine truth of the revolution and struggle with a correct fighting strategy and method, it says, and goes on:

The lesson of the Paris Commune shows first of all that in order to win victory in the revolutionary struggle the people should be correctly guided by the party and the leader.

To win victory in the revolutionary struggle, the working class should have a guiding idea of revolution and arm itself with the law of the development of the society and the theory on the class struggle and have a scientific strategy and tactics. It should also win over allies and mobilize and correctly use the broad reserve forces of the revolution.

The lesson of the Paris Commune also teaches that the working class should thoroughly smash the counter-revolution and carry out the revolution to the end. To decisively crush the resistance of the overthrown exploiting classes and all brands of enemy is a firm guarantee for defending the conquests of the revolution and winning final victory.

The lesson of the Paris Commune also tells that only when the working class firmly rallies the broad toiling masses including the peasants, can it ensure the decisive superiority of the revolutionary forces over the counter-revolutionary forces and continuously and vigorously advance the revolutionary struggle under whatever circumstances.

The article goes on:

Over 100 years have passed since the Paris Commune was proclaimed.

This period was the course of great revolutionary changes that have been brought about in the development of human history thanks to the struggle of the world working class and oppressed peoples to cut off the chains of capital, oppose all manner of subjugation and advance towards socialism and communism.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung has taught:

"History has already furnished an ample proof that nothing can destroy communism. The communist movement has over 100 years of history, counting only from the Paris Commune. All the imperialists and their lackeys have opposed communism, but so far none of them have succeeded in destroying it."

Thanks to the struggle of the working class and exploited and oppressed peoples the socialist system has been established in many countries, the national-liberation struggle gained in strength in the colonies and imperialism, dealt a heavy blow, is declining and ruining. This is a victory won by the world working class and revolutionary people through their protracted bloody struggle for independence.

There were a lot of difficulties and bitter failures on this road. But the working class and the communists have unyieldingly fought, holding high the banner of revolution.

All the revolutionary events that have taken place in the international arena since the Paris Commune up to this date show that it is an inexorable law of the development of human history that imperialism falls and socialism and communism triumph.

Our people have vigorously fought for a long time for independence, sovereignty and socialist construction holding aloft the banner of revolution and have made continued progress in the revolutionary struggle and construction work, ushered in an era of great national prosperity and grandeur in this land and scaled a high peak of socialism.

Our people will as ever strengthen unity and solidarity with the peoples of the socialist countries, the world revolutionary people advocating independence and persistently struggle to wipe imperialism off the surface of the globe once and for all and achieve the victory of the cause of socialism and communism, the bright future of mankind.

Imperishable are the exploits of the Paris Commune in the cause of liberation of mankind and the history of the revolutionary struggle of the working class.

Brief Korean History *(6)*

Formation of Feudal Society

The slave-owning society that lasted over several hundred years gave way to the feudal society during about 100 years between the 1st century B.C. and around the Christian era.

In the feudal society feudal lords or land lords exploit the working masses by non-economical means. The exploited class mainly became serfs. They have no land and were placed in a miserable situation as belongings to the ruling class. Most of their crop which they gained by hard labour were deprived by land lord class. However, unlike the slaves, they were able to own means of production, though temporarily, and they were not killed easily.

Only in this point, the feudal ruling class was able to be progressive in its beginning and could establish their rule by making use of struggles of masses of the people including slaves against slavery.

Scores of years after the collapse of Kochoson, there appeared several feudal states in the land of Kochoson. The strongest among them was Koguryo.

The Koguryo tribe who had separated from Puyo lived in the middle reaches of the Amnok River.

This tribe, inheriting the productive forces and culture of Kochoson and Puyo, established a feudal kingdom Koguryo in the middle of the first century B.C. The founder of Koguryo is said to be Chumong. The first capital was Cholbon (present Whanin) and the capital was moved to Kugnaesong (present Chupan) around the end of the first century B.C.

The powerful forces of Koguryo were five aristocratic families called cholnobu, sunnonbu, kwannobu and kyerubu.

The king, kochuga or royal aristocrats, taega and sanga or aristocrats and homin or upper layer of the common people belonged to the ruling classes. The ruled classes were composed of self-supporting peasants, the absolute majority of the population, haho or serfs and hired hands.

After its foundation, Koguryo continued to expand its territory by conquering the neighboring feudal foces.

Around the period before and after the Christian era the Kingdom of Chinguk became weak gradually and autonomous local aristocrats grew into powerful feudal forces. Paekje and Silla came to the front. Paekje was founded by a political force which broke off from Koguryo. Onjo, founder of Paekje, is said to be the second son of Chumong, founder of Koguryo.

After her creation, Paekje annexed small territorial kingdoms. In 9 A.D. she conquered Mahan. From then onwards, the work of union continued in the Mahan region.

Silla situated on the southeast corner of the Korean Peninsula formed a kingdom around the 2nd century later than Koguryo and Paekje.

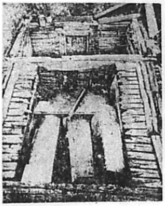
She was a feudal force belonging to Chinhan, one of the three areas of Chinguk. Hyoggose is said to be founder of Silla. It was in 57 B.C. that he became the king.

Silla was founded by the allied feudal forces in six regions near Kyongju and that migrant aristocrats of Kochoson with advanced culture were the main force in founding the kingdom.

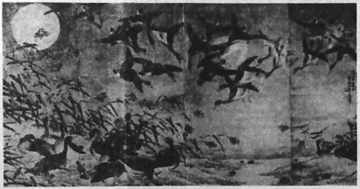
Coinciding with the founding of Silla, 6 kayas—Kumgangkaya, Anrakaya, Sokaya, Taekaya, Songsankaya and Koryongkaya in the former Pyonhan, southwest of the Rakdonggang River. Six kayas were closely allied with Kumgangkaya in Kimhae of South Kyongsan Province.

By the end of the 1st century B.C., the slavery collapsed in the area between the Chongchon River and the Raesong River, midwest of the Korean Peninsula, and the Ancient Rakrang changed into a feudal state.

(To be continued)



Many mud fortifications and tombs were found in the former territory of Rakrang. Tombs are of three types—mud tombs, wooden toombs and brick tombs. Photo to shows a wooden tomb.



Korean Painting

"An Autumn Night"

(By Li Do Yong, the early period of the 20th century)

Li Do Yong was a realistic painter credited with a significant contribution to the development of the modern Korean paintings.

He painted colored pictures at a time when the colored paintings were not well treated under the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists.

This painting, 1.5 meters high and 3 meters wide, is a masterpiece which hardly can be found those days.

The painter painted this picture, forcefully using big brushes in a typical way of the Korean painting.

This picture shows us a strong call of life which appears to be breaking silence, and it also shows the repressed patriotic feeling of the painter who lived through the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists.

"Bird Week"

In the DPRK the first week of April is observed as the "Bird Week."

During this week school children as well as adults take part in colourful functions to protect and multiply beneficial birds in a mass movement.

Lecture meeting, seminar and other mass gatherings are held to spread the good results and experiences obtained in protecting the birds on the instructions of the great leader to protect the country's bird population.

During the week the publicity work for bird protection is intensively organized on a countrywide scale through the press, radio and cinema. Film shows, field observations, inspections of zoo, nature museums, model protectors of beneficial birds, etc. are arranged.

Children and people also look round woods, parks or recreation grounds to see whether birds settle in man-made nestboxes set in trees during winter, and redistribute or make them better if necessary.

Typical birds accustomed to man-made nestboxes are great-tit, grey starling, Daurian redstar an nuthatch.

Patriotism of the Korean people, school children in particular, is highly displayed through their good care for beneficial birds every year during the week, thus bringing about a good success in the protection of the country's animal and plant life as a whole.

News Dispatch from Pyongyang

Mar. 6

*Chong Nam Ho, amassador of the DPRK to the Republic of Mauritius, presented his credentials to D. Bara chobe, acting Governor General of Mauritius.

Mar. 7

* Anker Henrik Joergensen, Prime Minister of Denmark and Chairman of the Central Committee of the Social Democratic Party of Denmark, met the delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by Kim Gwan Sop on a visit to his country.

Mar. 9

* Josip Broz Tito, President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, met in split Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Dam, head of the government delegation of the DPRK, on a visit to Yugoslavia.

* An agreement on cooperation in the cultural and scientific fields and the 1979-1980 working plan between the governments of the DPRK and the GDR were signed in Berlin.

Mar. 10

* A joint information of the visit of the government delegation of the DPRK to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was released.

Mar. 12

* A government trade delegation of the DPRK headed by Choe Jong Gun left Pyongyang by plane for a visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

* The Pyongyang School Children's Art Troupe headed by Chong Chun Hwan left Pyongyang by special plane for a visit to Bangladesh.

*Dawda Kairaba Jawara, President of the Republic of Gambia met Ryu Man Bok, ambassador of the DPRK to his country.

*Kim Ryong Yong, ambassador of the DPRK to the Republic of Upper Volta, presented his credentials to President El-Hadj Aboubakar angoule Lamizana.

Mar. 13

*H. Roy Evans, President of the International Table Tennis Federation, arrived in Pyongyang to draw the order of play of the 35th World Table Tennis Championships slated in Pyongyang for April.

Mar. 14

*A cultural delegation of Bangladesh headed by Mohammad Siddiquer Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Sports of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, arrived in Pyongyang.

Mar. 15

*The 1979-1980 plan for scientific cooperation between the Academy of Sciences of the DPRK and the Academy of Sciences of Bulgaria was signed in Sofia.

(KCNA)

Legend

Lake Michon

Mt. Taesong in Pyongyang abounds in historic remains including the site of the walls built by the Koguryo people over 1,500 years ago.

It has a lot of beautiful legends about the Korean people's resourcefulness and bravery. The legend about "Lake Michon" is one of them.

There was in Koguryo a great master in building fortress walls. His name was Mi I Chan.

He devoted his life to designing mountain and plain fortress walls. His last masterpiece was the Taesongsan mountain fortress walls in Pyongyang, the capital of Koguryo. He designed it splendidly and directed its building.

But he, accused as traitor, was arrested and interrogated by the king in the court. He was charged with the high treason of having handed over to the enemy country a national treasure "Chabongwa" which was to be put on the roof of the Changsu Pavilion.

"Chabongwa" was a magic tile which was said to light a signal fire of itself when the enemy attacked Koguryo and instantly notify the signal-fire posts in the whole country of the enemy attack.

It was a gift sent by the dragon king in the West Sea of Korea, congratulating King Changsu on his moving of the capital to Pyongyang.

A big tortoise came up the Taedong River with the tile on its back to the Anhak Palace and offered it to the king, saying that it was the present from the dragon king.

The king and all his subjects saw no reason why the dragon king sent an ordinary tile as a gift and they were various in opinions about it. Mi I Chan was called later to their presence. He knew that it was "Chabongwa."

But he did not tell them about it, and he later met the king privately and spoke about the magic of the tile and said that it was the priceless national treasure of Koguryo.

The king was greatly surprised and said that the Heaven got the dragon king to send it to him for the prosperity of the great kingdom of Koguryo. He asked Mi I Chan how to do with it. He earnestly told the king to keep its secret strictly, emphasizing that if the enemy knew its secret it would be difficult to keep the magic treasure.

He also offered to build a pavilion on Mt. Taesong and put an imitation of the magic tile on its roof so that nobody could know "Chabongwa." The king readily accepted his offer and promised to keep the secret rigidly. Mi I Chan, as he proposed to the king, built the Changsu Pavilion on the Changsu Peak under the pretext of commemorating the king's transfer of the capital to Pyongyang and put the magic tile on its roof unnoticed. Even the king did not know where it was. Shortly after the completion of the pavilion, a rascal falsely told the king that he handed it over to the enemy and Mi I Chan was tortured as a traitor.

Suffering torture, he thought to himself: It is only the king and himself who know about "Chabongwa." Who, then, fabricated the story that the tile was handed over to the enemy country The king could never do that. The story is a pure fabrication by someone. Who, then, let the secret out? I have never spoken about it. The king? The king could never talk about it. Nay, he might speak about it. He loves to boast of himself. He could proudly talk about the tile from the dragon king to his most dependable person closest to him. I might think that the king let the secret out that way. Why do they put the blame on me, then?

Mi I Chan was lost in deep thought, looking at the moonlight behind the ars:

If anyone who regards me as an enemy wants to brand me as a traitor and kill me, it will be a vain attempt. I did not do wrong against my country and if I tell where the magic tile is, everything will be clear. The point lies not in harming me but in knowing where the tile is. His hair stood on end. There must be an enemy agent lurking in the court of the great kingdom of Koguryo. But I cannot tell where it is, trapped by the enemy trick, in order to purge myself of the bad name.

Terrible torture continued. They demanded the magic tile if he had not handed it over to the enemy.

But Mi I Chan kept silence.

Pieces of flesh were stuck fast to the club and drops of his blood splashed in all directions like water.

The king concluded that he really handed it to the enemy and asked him to speak what he wanted to say before death. He collected his senses and said to the king:

"A crow cannot change into an egret, and vice versa. I can die, bearing a bad name of traitor, but when the enemy attack Koguryo a signal fire will certainly rise into the sky from the Changsu Pavilion. I cannot close my eyes if I die, because I have not found out the enemy agent hiding in the court."

The king canceled his death sentence and condemned him to exile on a solitary island in the East Sea of Korea.

Before his departure, he said to his four sons: "You cannot understand why your father is exiled, bearing the bad name of traitor. The truth will soon come to light as the cloud cannot veil the sunlight. I have something to pass on to you. I buried it beneath the rock under a solitary pine the Taesongsan mountain walls. You must never fail to find it out. This is your father's will."

That day four brothers began to search for it as their father told. The court learned this and appointed secret agents to know what Mi I Chan left his sons. They thought that he had received a great treasure from the enemy in return for the magic tile. Four brothers searched the walls for the rock. Ten days passed and then a month went by. But they could not find it. They felt sorry for their father. They could not understand why their father let them trouble in leaving them something. Two months and three months flew by. They finally decided to dig under a big cliff. They dug for four or five days, but nothing came out but mud. They continued. At last water gushed out. They could not go on. In spite of several months of efforts they could not find what their father left them.

They came back home and sat down on the wooden floor and looked up at the sky where fleecy clouds were flying. When the eldest brother sitting with his back against the pillar stood up, he felt something stuck to the back of his coat. It was pine resin on the pillar.

The moment he saw the pine pillar and the stone on which it rested. He thought of the solitary pine on the rock.

"This is that. The pillar is just the solitary pine on the rock."

He slapped his knee.

"Come! Let's dig here!"

He began to shovel.

After a short while they found a wooden box.

In excitement they opened the box. There was a small lacquered box within it.

Younger brothers were tense and excited at the eldest brother opening it with his trembling hands.

In the box was a book titled "Chuksongji" (book on building of walls) written in the hand-writing of their father.

Excitement passed and they smacked their lips with disappointment.

The eldest brother carefully took the book in his hands and turned over pages.

It was a valuable book written by their father on the basis of his experiences in walls-building. The book contained the plans of walls and recorded the date of their building, their size and structure, the intentions of the designers and their strong and weak points.

It also said that the main stress should be laid on the battle depending on the mountain walls in defending mountainous Koguryo and contained the theory and art of walls-building.

They were much interested in the book.

The last part mentioned the Taesongsan mountain walls.

It has a design for it. It said that the walls was perfect as the walls of the capital in its place and size and was much superior to other walls in its building art and its weakness was lack of water.

Their father wrote that he had found springs and dug ponds but they could not meet the need in case of emergency, and wished them to find without fail a large spring and perfect the walls, to let in water flow and make a reservoir if they succeeded in finding a spring, and devote, like him, all their lives to national defence as walls builders.

After reading they were gripped by solemn feelings.

Just at that moment a bright flame lit up the dark night sky all of a sudden. It was burning on the roof of the Changsu Pavilion.

Surprised at the sight, they ran to the pavilion.

When they arrived there, they could not see the flame and only the brass bells were sounding leisurely at the ends of eaves. They looked at each other doubtfully.

They watched the pavilion from a distance. The flame was as bright as ever on the roof and the farther they went from it, the bigger it looked.

Dumbfounded, they looked at the flame in ecstasies. "That is the flame of Chabongwa. It is sure that the enemy is attacking us," said the eldest brother. At that moment flames rose from all signal-fire posts around Pyongyang. They would spread all over the country. Now the king was convinced of his wrong. He sent for Mi I Chan. But it was too late.

He died of serious illness from terrible torture on the way to the penal island.

Appreciating highly Mi I Chan's patriotism, the state appointed his eldest son as an official taking care of all walls of Koguryo and gave three sons government services in charge of national defence.

The reservoir which his sons made according to their father's will was named "Lake Mi I Chan" after his name.

Going from mouth to mouth with the lapse of time, "Lake Mi I Chan" changed into "Lake Michon."

Statement of KPCSGC, KTTA

The Korean Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee and the Korean Table Tennis Association issued a statement on March 24.

Follows the full text of the statement:

☆

The talks between delegates of the table tennis associations of the north and the south for the formation of a unified national team to participate in the 35th World Table Tennis Championships due in Pyongyang have come to a standstill, failing to produce a desired result owing to the two different stands, one for a unified team and the other for a separate team.

Now the entire fellow countrymen are greatly disappointed at the fact that four rounds of talks failed in the end to form a unified team due to the unjustified attitude of the south Korean side seeking separate participation.

To say nothing of the world table tennis circles, the International Table Tennis Federation which had been following our talks expressed deep regret at the rupture of the bilateral talks for the formation of a unified national team.

Reflecting such stand of the world table tennis cricles, the President of the International Table Tennis Federation at his press conferences on March 15 and 22 expressed an official view that there is still time for the formation of a unified national team of the north and the south of Korea and the International Table Tennis Federation is ready to accept a unified national team.

At a time when the whole nation wants a unified team and the International Table Tennis Federation welcomes it, it can in no way be beneficial to our nation to oppose a unified team and seek a separate team within the nation.

Though the south Korean side unilaterally broke off the talks, turning down the reasonable proposals of our side for the formation of a unified team, we have not yet given up the hope of forming a unified team to participate in the 35th World Table Tennis Championships.

Only when sportsmen of this land participate as a unified team can they demonstrate to the whole world the unity and resourcefulness of the nation in the international games, the first of its kind to be held in our country, and give national confidence and pride to the 50 million fellow countrymen.

We earnestly urge the south Korean side to change even now its stand of seeking separate participation and return to the talks for the formation of a unified team.

There is still enough time to form a unified team of the north and south and if the two sides sit knee to knee with the same desire, they can at once make a present of the historic first unified team to the nation.

Conscious of our national mission to form a unified team at any cost for participation in the 35th World Table Tennis Championships due in Pyongyang, we propose to have the fifth round of the talks between delegates of the table tennis associations of the north and the south at 10 a.m. March 7 in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom.

(Continued from page 1)

The assertion of the south Korean side that the "legal construction of qualification" on a provision for the rules of the ITTF should be taken as a presupposition for the formation of a unified team is also aimed at rejecting a unified team.

The master who should form a unified team is our nation itself and its direct party concerned is also our nation.

If the two sides reach an agreement, it is possible to participate in the championships as a unified team in the light of the spirit and letter of the rules of the ITTF and the ITTF and its national associations hailed it and expressed their readiness to help in this matter.

The assertion of the south Korean side that the participation of a separate team in the Pyongyang Championships should be guaranteed is also and unwarranted one which is incompatible with the formation of a unified team.

It is clear to everyone that the talks between the table tennis associations of the two sides are to discuss the problem of a unified team and realize its formation under all circumstances, not to argue about the participation of a separate team in the Pyongyang Championships.

While pretending to respond to the talks for the formation of unified team, the south Korean side, in actuality, pursued its separate participation in the championships.

The intention of the south Korean side to oppose a unified team and seek a separate team was brought into bolder relief as the talks were repeated.

When the ITTF expressed its readiness to permit the north and south to participate in the championships as a unified team irrespective of time if they reach an agreement, the south Korean side brought forth the so-called problem of the "vested right."

As for the problem of the "vested right" to take part separately in the Pyongyang Championships, which was raised by the south Korean side, it is a different problem which could not be submitted to the talks for the formation of a unified team.

We clearly saw through the intention of the south Korean side which preposterously raised this problem at the fourth round of talks. Yet we advanced a new epochal proposal to find a reasonable solution to the "vested right" problem, proceeding from the sincere desire to form a unified team at any cost.

But, when we raised the new proposal for the settlement of the "vested right" problem, the south Korean side, rejecting it categorically, brought forward another unreasonable problem of "exchange in the field of sports" to create confusion in the bilateral talks.

As for collaboration and exchange in the field of sports, it has long been proposed by us. But sports exchange, along with many-sided collaboration, has not yet been realized because the south Korean side has opposed our compatriotic proposal.

As its schemes to obstruct the formation of a unified team were all frustrated, the south Korean side openly took the road of bringing the talks to a rupture without any justification in accordance with its original plan, and at the fourth round of talks on March 12 it announced that it could not hold the talks for the formation of a unified team any more.

Our side repeatedly told the south Korean side that if it unilaterally broke off the bilateral talks which were arranged with so much efforts, it would leave an indelible blot in the history of our nation, urged it again to make sincere efforts together to the end for the formation of a unified team to participate in the Pyongyang Championships and proposed again to hold the fifth round of talks on March, 17.

However, the south Korean side repeatedly said that it could not hold talks any more and finally walked out of the conference room, thereby deadlocking the talks between the delegates of the table tennis associations of the north and south for the formation of a unified team.

The whole course of the talks showed once again who truly wants collaboration and reunification and who seeks confrontation and split in our country and disclosed that the south Korean side pursues to perpetuation of split and creation of "two Koreas," not the reunification of the nation.

The true purpose of us in initiating the talks and turning up at the conference room was to form a unified team. But the south Korean side unwillingly took part in the talks so as not to be denounced by public opinion at home and abroad for its opposition to a unifed team. Its aim was not the formation of a unified team.

We made all sincere efforts at the talks to succeed in the formation of a unified team. But the south Korean side resorted to every conceivable means to oppose a unified team and seek a separate team.

The fundamental stand of our side was to form a unified team. But that of the south Korean side was to participate as a separate team.

Even now the south Korean side must discard the wrong stand of seeking a separate team and take the road of forming a unified team.

It is not yet late for realizing the unanimous desire of the whole nation to see the participation of a unified team in the 35th World Table Tennis Championships and there are enough time if the south Korean side has an intention to form a unified team.

If the two sides reach an agreement on the formation of a unified team, the road is wide open for the participation of a unified team in the Pyongyang Championships.

Reflecting the trend of the fair public opinion in Korea and foreign countries, the ITTF President at news conferences on March 15 and 22, expressed an official view that there is still time for the formation of a unified team of the north and south of Korea and the ITTF is ready to accept our unified national team at any time.

Even now the south Korean side must give up the wrong stand of seeking separate participation and join us in the efforts to form a unified team.

If the north and south sit around one table with one and the same desire, they can make a present of the first historic unified team to the nation.

There is no ground whatsoever for the south Korean side not to accept the broad-minded and sincere proposal of the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee and the Korean Table Tennis Association on resuming the talks between delegates of the table tennis associations of the north and south.

The south Korean side must unconditionally return to the conference room for the formation of a unified team and agree to the formation of a unified team, not seeking a separate team any longer.

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